

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 5, line 7 with the following amended paragraphs:

Figures [[4-7]] 4-6, 6A and 7 illustrate further details of the braided conductive member illustrated in Figures 2 and 3;

Figures [[8-11]] 8-10, 10A and 11A-11D illustrate, among other things, temperature sensing in the present invention;

Figures [[12-13]] 12A, 12B and 13 illustrate further details of the steering capabilities of the present invention;

Figures [[14-17]] 14, 15A-15B, 16A-16C and 17 illustrate further embodiments of the braided conductive member;

Figures [[18-19]] 18, 19 and 19A illustrate the use of irrigation in connection with the present invention;

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 6, line 5 with the following amended paragraphs:

Figures [[34-40]] 34A, 34B and 35-40 illustrate aspects of a catheter having a retractable distal tip portion; and

Figures [[41-42]] 41A-41E and 42 illustrate a modified version of the catheter illustrated in Figures 34-40 having a lumen for the delivery of fluids or devices.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a handle;
a shaft portion coupled to a distal end of the handle;
a tip portion located at a most distal portion of the catheter;
a braided conductive member coupled to the shaft portion and the tip portion; and
a mandrel fixedly attached to the tip portion and slidably disposed within the shaft portion;
wherein actuation proximal retraction of the mandrel expands the braided conductive member from an undeployed position in which the braided conductive member assumes a generally cylindrical configuration to a deployed position in which the braided conductive member assumes a disk-like configuration, and wherein proximal retraction of the mandrel causes proximal retraction of the tip portion.
2. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the mandrel comprises at least two tiers having different diameters.
3. (Original) The catheter of claim 2, wherein the mandrel comprises three tiers having different diameters.
4. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the braided conductive member comprises an electrode having insulated and uninsulated portions.
5. (Original) The catheter of claim 4, wherein the braided conductive member further comprises a plurality of electrically independent portions.

6. (Original) The catheter of claim 5, wherein uninsulated portions of electrically independent portions of the braided conductive member do not contact each other in the deployed or undeployed position.
7. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the mandrel comprises a lumen having a distal opening.
8. (Original) The catheter of claim 7, wherein the distal opening is coupled to an opening of the tip portion.
9. (Original) The catheter of claim 7, wherein the lumen further comprises a proximal opening, and wherein a fluid source is coupled to the proximal opening to allow fluid to flow from the fluid source to the lumen.
10. (Original) The catheter of claim 7, wherein the lumen further comprises a proximal opening, and wherein a device port is coupled to the proximal opening to allow fluid to flow from the fluid source to the lumen.
11. (Original) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the device port is coupled to the handle.
12. (Original) The catheter of claim 7, wherein the mandrel is slidably disposed within the handle, and wherein the mandrel is coupled to an actuator to control movement of the mandrel.
13. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the mandrel is slidably disposed within the handle, and wherein the mandrel is coupled to an actuator to control movement of the mandrel.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein movement of the tip portion toward the shaft compresses the braided conductive member laterally.

16. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the mandrel is formed of a superelastic material.

17. (Original) The catheter of claim 16, wherein the mandrel is formed of nitinol.

18. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the mandrel is coated with a high dielectric coating.

19. (Original) The catheter of claim 18, wherein the mandrel is coated with parylene.

20. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the tip portion is constructed of an elastomeric material.

21. (Original) The catheter of claim 20, wherein the elastomeric material includes silicone.

22. (Original) The catheter of claim 20, wherein the elastomeric material includes polyurethane.

23. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the tip portion comprises a cap portion and an anchor portion secured to the cap portion, and wherein the mandrel is secured to the anchor portion and a distal end of the braided conductive member is secured between the cap portion and the anchor portion.

24. (Original) The catheter of claim 23, wherein the anchor portion includes a projection that engages with an edge of the cap portion.

25. (Original) The catheter of claim 23, wherein a bonding agent is included between the cap portion and the anchor portion.

26. (Original) The catheter of claim 23, wherein at least a distal portion of the cap portion comprises an elastomeric material.

27. (Original) The catheter of claim 1, further comprising a plug disposed about the mandrel at the distal end of the shaft and adapted to form a substantially fluid-tight seal between the mandrel and the shaft.

28-65 (Canceled)